

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 109043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (COULTER, TYRONE WAYNE)

SUBJECT: W/W ARREST CASE TYRONE WAYNE COULTER

REF: MEXICO TEL 2938

FOR DCM BRANDIN

1. DURING MEETING MAY 9 OF STATE REPS WITH STAFF MEMBERS OF HOUSE COMMITTEE AND STARK OFFICE CASE OF TYRONE WAYNE COULTER WAS REVIEWED. STARK REP EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN EMBASSY'S INVESTIGATION OF COULTER ALLEGATIONS THAT HE HAD BEEN TORTURED DURING INTERROGATION IN SEPTEMBER 1973. STARK REP ASKED WHAT IF ANY ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY EMBASSY. REPLYING, DEPT REP QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM REFTEL, COPY OF WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO COMMITTEE. REFTEL STATES THAT ON FIRST MEETING WITH CONOFF ON OCTOBER 2 COULTER COMPLAINED OF MISTREATMENT. CONOFF APPARENTLY DID NOT CONSIDER COMPLAINT AS SERIOUS AND DID NOTHING BECAUSE (A) COULTER'S WIFE "CLAIMED HE NEEDS PSYCHIATRIC ASSISTANCE" AND (B) DEA REP MEDINA WHO WAS PRESENT DURING AT LEAST PART OF INTERROGATION INDICATES COULTER HAD NOT BEEN MISTREATED IN HIS PRESENCE.

2. STARK'S OFFICE THEN PRODUCED COPY OF EMBASSY LETTER OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NOVEMBER 13, 1973 TO MRS. MIA S. RICHARDSON SIGNED BY ROBERT S. ASHFORD WHICH READS IN PART: "THE EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED OF THIS ALLEGED BRUTALITY WHEN A CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED TYRONE AT LECUMBERRI PRISON ON OCTOBER 2, 1973. AT

THAT TIME, IT WAS ALSO DETERMINED THAT SUCH TREATMENT WAS PERPETRATED IN MOST PART BY OVER ZEALOUS ARRESTING OFFICERS AT THE TIME OF APPREHENSION. THESE ABUSES DO NOT NORMALLY OCCUR WITHIN THE PRISON ITSELF AND AFTER THE PRISONER HAS OBTAINED PERMANENT QUARTERS. WHILE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE EMBASSY TO PREVENT SUCH ACTS THE MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED BY APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIALS WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES IN THE HOPE THAT ACTION TO AVOID FURTHER SIMILAR OCCURRENCES MIGHT BE TAKEN."

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONFIRM AUTHENTICITY OF ASHFORD LETTER AND COMMENT ON ITS IMPLICATIONS THAT EMBASSY KNEW COULTER HAD BEEN MISTREATED BUT LIMITED ITS CONSULAR PROTECTION TO VAGUE PROMISE TO DISCUSS MATTER AT SOME FUTURE DATE WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES ASHFORD IS NO LONGER AT POST BUT IN CONTEXT COULTER CASE AS WELL AS GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES PLEASE COMMENT (A) WHY WAS DOCTOR NOT INVITED TO EXAMINE COULTER UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES AS DESCRIBED? (B) WAS IT TRUE THEN OR AT ANY OTHER TIME THAT EMBASSY DOES NOT MAKE STRONG WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS IN INSTANCES WHEN AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DENIED HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAVE BEEN MISTREATED. (C) RECOGNIZING THAT THAT DEA OFFICE IS PART OF EMBASSY, WHAT ACTION HAS THAT OFFICE TAKEN IN CASE OF COULTER AND IN OTHER INSTANCES WHICH MAY ARISE TO INFORM AMBASSADOR AND CONOFF PROMPTLY WHENEVER ANY EVIDENCE IS RECEIVED BY DEA THAT AN AMERICAN HAS BEEN MISTREATED BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES? (D) UNDERSTAND MEDINA NOW IN GUATEMALA UNDER SUPERVISION DEA REGIONAL OFFICE MEXICO CITY. HAVE DEA DETERMINE UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES HE MAY HAVE LEFT SCENE OF INTERROGATION OF COULTER. (E) ASSUMING TREMBLAY REPORTED ALLEGED COULTER MISTREATMENT TO HIS SUPERVISOR ASHFORD, WAS THIS INCIDENT ALSO MADE KNOWN TO CG OR ANY OTHER EMBASSY OFFICER? IF SO, TO WHAT EFFECT?

4. AS EMBASSY MAY RECALL MIA RICHARDSON WAS ASSISTANT
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DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS JAIL. CAN EMBASSY IDENTIFY ANY OTHER LETTERS ASHFORD MAY HAVE WRITTEN RICHARDSON OR ANYONE ELSE WHICH MIGHT BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF NOVEMBER 13? KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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